

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q75081

Akira SAKAWAKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/552,445

Group Art Unit: 1773

Confirmation No.: 2287

Examiner: Kevin M. BERNATZ

Filed: March 29, 2006

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREOF, AND  
MAGNETIC RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes

prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (Official Action issued in corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-103454 dated April 24, 2007).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations: The submission of English language abstracts for JP-A-02-094109, JP-A-08-279195, JP-A-2001-319314 and JP-A-2002-025030 constitutes a concise statement of relevance for these documents.

In addition, computer-generated English translations for JP-A-08-279195, JP-A-2001-319314 and JP-A-2002-025030 constitute a further concise statement of relevance for these documents.

Applicant notes that the enclosed Japanese Office Action also cites WO 03/009282, JP-A-2000-276729, JP-A-2002-208127, JP-A-2001-184626 and JP-A-2000-268340. Each of these documents have been cited by applicant in previous Information Disclosure Statements. Accordingly, applicant is not submitting copies of these documents with the present Information Disclosure Statement.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
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Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Sheldon I. Landsman  
Sheldon I. Landsman  
Registration No. 25,430

Date: May 22, 2007

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

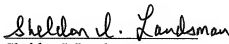
Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)**

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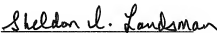
Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/552,445
Confirmation Number	2287
Filing Date	March 29, 2006
First Named Inventor	Akira SAKAWAKI
Art Unit	1773
Examiner Name	Kevin M. BERNATZ
Attorney Docket Number	Q75081

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	02-094109	A	04/04/1990	Hitachi Ltd. Hitachi Maxell Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	08-279195	A	10/22/1996	TDK Corp.	Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation
		JP	2001-319314	A	11/16/2001	Hitachi Ltd.	Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation
		JP	2002-025030	A	01/25/2002	Hitachi Ltd. Hitachi Maxell Ltd.	Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.